



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS REGULATIONS BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

16496

[Docket No. HM-85; Amdts. 172-16, 173-65]

**PART 172—COMMODITY LIST OF
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS CON-
TAINING THE SHIPPING NAME OR
DESCRIPTION OF ALL ARTICLES
SUBJECT TO PARTS 170-189 OF
THIS CHAPTER**

PART 173—SHIPPERS

Boron Tribromide

The purpose of this amendment to the hazardous materials regulations is to authorize the use of boron tribromide as a proper shipping name and to provide specific packagings for the shipment of boron tribromide.

On May 26, 1971, the Hazardous Materials Board published Docket No. HM-85, Notice No. 71-14 (36 F.R. 9602), which proposed this amendment. This amendment was identified in the miscellaneous notice of proposed rule making as Proposal E. Interested persons were invited to give their views and several comments were received by the Board.

All of the commenters approved of identifying boron tribromide in the regulations by name. However, some commenters objected to the proposed small quantity packagings for this material. The Board proposed the small quantity packagings on the basis of information received from the known suppliers of boron tribromide and because this material reacts explosively when in contact with water if contained or if in large volumes. The commenters stated that boron tribromide and other similar water reactive materials were presently permitted by the regulations to be shipped in larger capacity packagings. These commenters requested the Board to continue to permit boron tribromide to be packaged in certain larger capacity packagings.

The Board requested from the commenters shipping experience information on these larger capacity packagings and specific details regarding shipments. The inquiry was directed to the approximate length of time in which the chemicals had been shipped in these packagings and the experience recorded which involved the number of packagings shipped, the number reported leaking, and the modes of transportation utilized. The replies lacked the requested details and did not justify the authorization of all of the suggested larger capacity packagings. Two commenters did submit experience statements on materials which they considered similar to boron-tribromide and that had been shipped satisfactorily in large capacity packagings.

In the Board's opinion, these materials cannot be adequately compared with boron tribromide particularly with regard to its high density which limits significantly the methods of packaging appropriate to provide safe transportation.

In view of the submitted information and the past performance record of DOT-5C and DOT-5M drums the Board

has authorized their use for the packaging of boron tribromide.

In consideration of the foregoing, 49 CFR Parts 172 and 173 are amended as follows:

1. In § 172.5 paragraph (a), the list of hazardous materials is amended as follows:

§ 172.5 List of hazardous materials.

(a) * * *

Article	Classed as	Exemptions and packing (see sec.)	Label required if not exempt	Maximum quantity in 1 outside container by rail express
(Add)				
Boron tribromide	Cor. L.	No exemption, 173.251	White	1 quart.

2. In Part 173 Table of Contents, § 173.251 is amended to read as follows:

§ 173.251 Boron trichloride and boron tribromide.

3. In § 173.251, the heading is amended; paragraph (b) is added to read as follows:

§ 173.251 Boron trichloride and boron tribromide.

(b) Boron tribromide must be packed in specification packagings as follows:

(1) Specification 15A, 15B, or 15P (§§ 178.168, 178.169, 178.182 of this subchapter). Wooden or plywood boxes with inside glass receptacles not over 1 quart capacity each. Each glass receptacle must have a positive closure (not friction) and as prepared for shipment must be capable of withstanding an internal gage pressure of at least 15 p.s.i. The receptacle must be cushioned with sufficient absorbent incombustible material to completely absorb the contents in the event of leakage and must be packed within a securely closed metal can. Each can must then be cushioned with incombustible material within the prescribed outside packaging. Completed packaging for shipment must be capable of passing the tests prescribed in § 178.182-3(a) (1) of this subchapter.

(2) Specification 5C or 5M (§§ 178.83, 178.90 of this subchapter). Metal drums not exceeding 30 gallons capacity. Specification 5C drums must be constructed of at least 14-gage stainless steel.

This amendment is effective December 30, 1972. However, compliance with the regulations, as amended herein, is authorized immediately.

(Secs. 831-835 of title 18, United States Code, sec. 9, Department of Transportation Act (49 U.S.C. 1657); title VI, sec. 902(h), Federal Aviation Act of 1958, U.S.C. 1421-1430 and 1472(h))

Issued in Washington, D.C., on August 7, 1972.

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